**National Body for effective energy policy review**

846. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was ever considered to form a suitable national body comprising of acknowledged experts in the field for an effective "Energy Policy Review"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) and (b) An Energy Policy Committee has been set up in the Planning Commission to recommend an outline of the energy policy forthe next 15-20years.The members include Secretaries to the Government of India in the Ministries of Power, Coal, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Environmental & Forests and Department of Atomic Energy. Experts from Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Tata Energy Research Institute etc. are also associated in the Committee.

**Complete Rural electrification in the Country**

[847. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government will achieve the target of complete rural electrification in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the States are adopting non-cooperating attitude for the achievement of target; and

(c) if so, the States which are moving towards in the achievement of target of full rural electrification and which are *the* States lagging behind in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Chief Ministers' Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 had resolved to complete village electrification by the end of Tenth Plan *i.e.* by 2007 and the coverage of all households, by 2012.

(c) No, Sir. fOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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[Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) At the end of May, 2002, nine States *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and all Union Territories have already achieved 100% village electrification as per 1991 census.

Ten States *i.e.* Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura are moving towards the achievements of full village electrification.

Nine States *i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal are below the national level of 86.7% village electrification.

The average rural household electrification in the country, as per 1991 census is 31 %. The States which are below the national average are Rajasthan, Tirpura, West Bengal, Orissa, Meghalaya, Assam, U.P., Bihar and J&K. All the rural households are targeted for electrification by 2012 and the States have reiterated their resolve to complete this task by 2012.

**Handling over power distribution to Private Companies**

†848. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hand over the power distribution to private companies throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that private companies after obtaining all the rights are providing better facilities to industries only;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to exert pressure for providing better power to consumers; and

(f) if so, in what manner along with details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.